

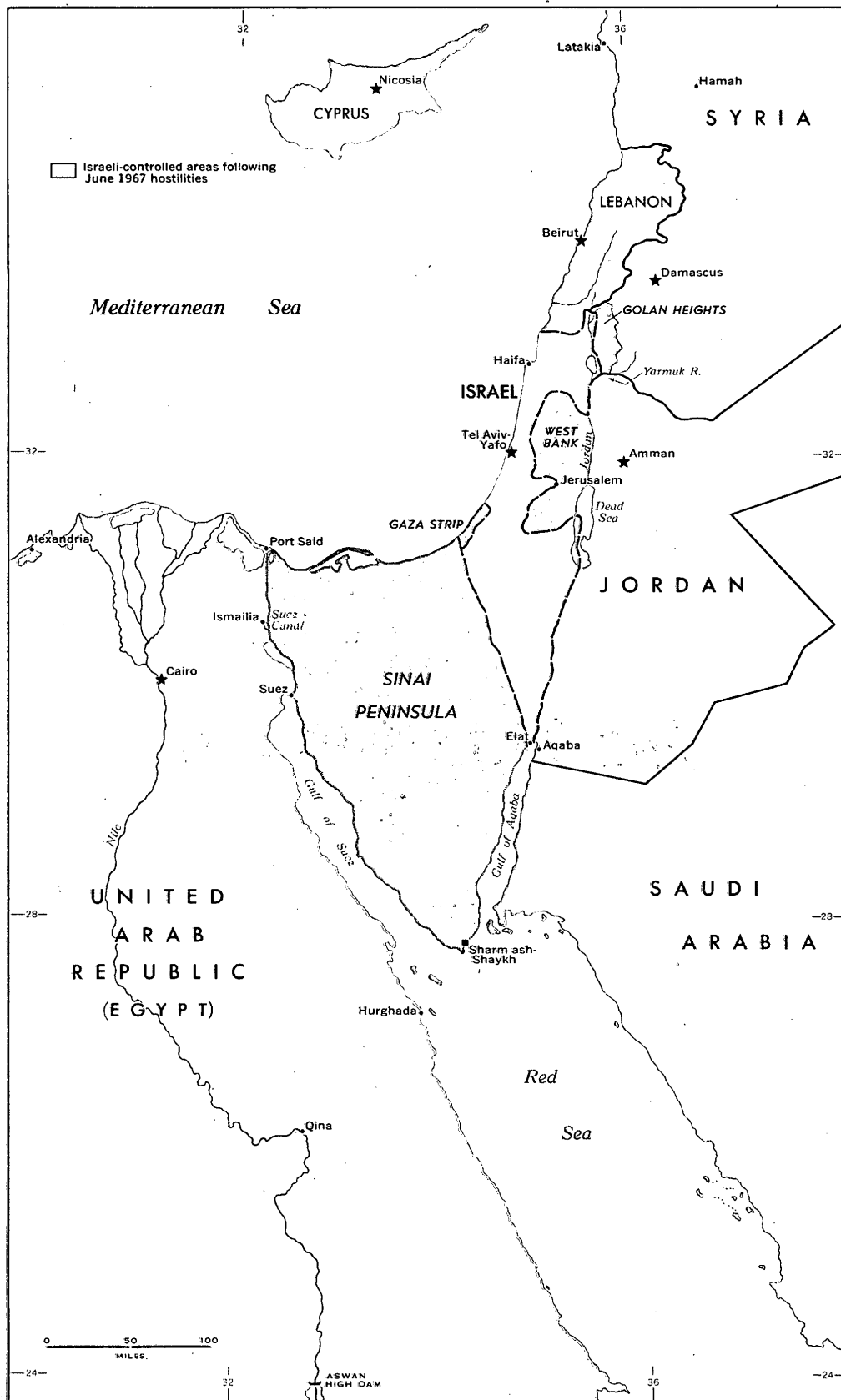


The President's Daily Brief

28 March 1969

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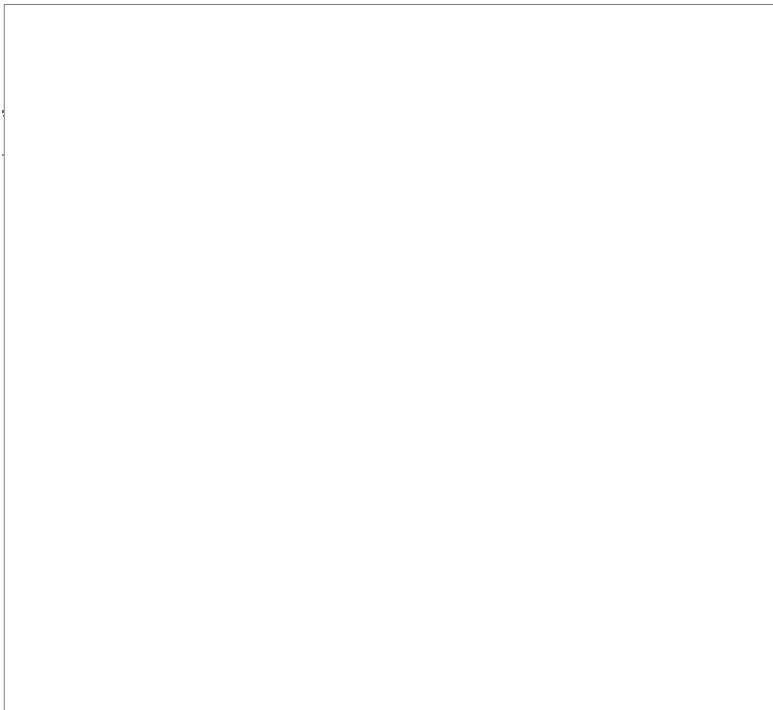


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LATE NOTES FOR THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF OF 28 MARCH 1969



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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

29 March 1969

LATE NOTES FOR THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF OF
28 MARCH 1969

I. MAJOR PROBLEMS

VIETNAM

There have been several recent reports of an enemy intent to launch further widespread attacks shortly. One Viet Cong defector has said the round of fighting in April will feature intensified attacks against key targets in the provinces, presumably provincial and district capitals and allied outposts. He claims that while a concerted attack against Saigon is not planned, an attempt will be made to infiltrate three battalions of several hundred men each into the southern part of the city. (Central Intelligence Bulletin, 29 Mar 69)

There is nothing significant to report on other areas.

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I. MAJOR PROBLEMS

MIDDLE EAST

Nasir's speech on Thursday

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attacked the US position as one of total support for Israel. The US, he claimed, "bears a great responsibility for the dangerous road on which the Middle East crisis is proceeding."

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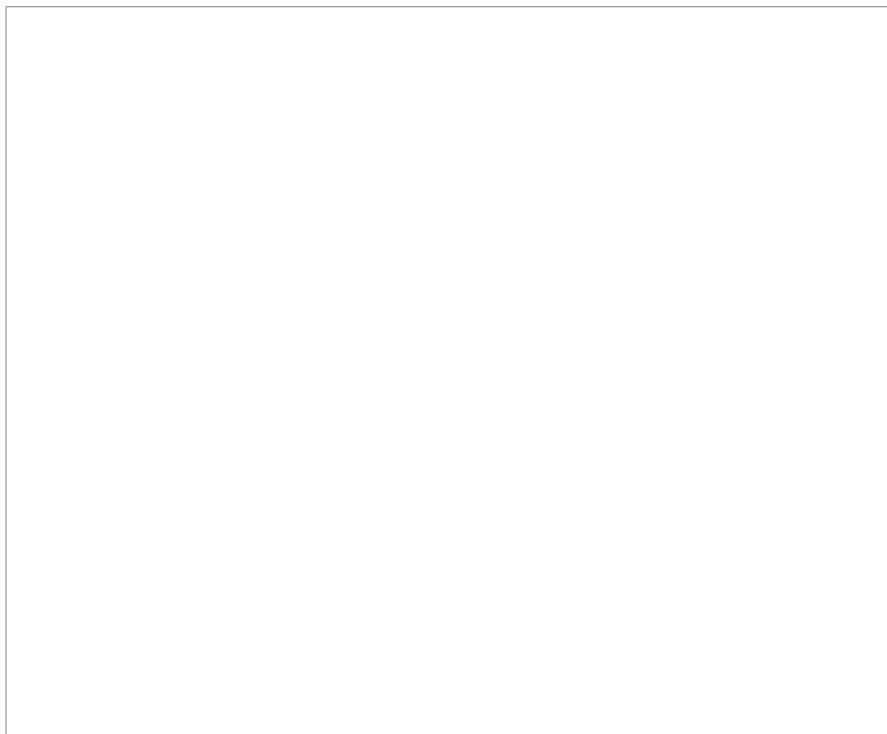
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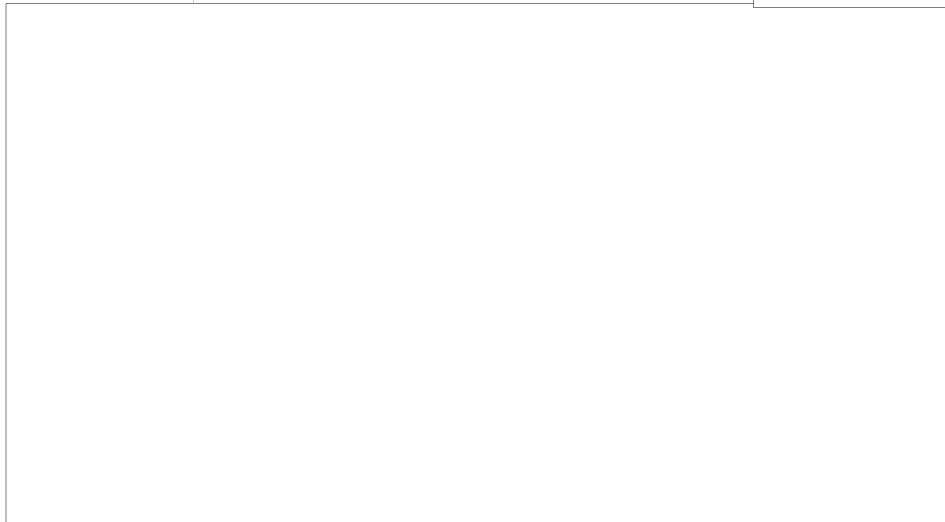
SOVIET AFFAIRS

Several Communist parties  are seeking ways to dilute the impact of the world Communist conference now scheduled for 5 June in Moscow. 

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The US Embassy in Moscow assumes that after so many preparatory sessions (another is scheduled 23 May) the Soviets will be reluctant to consider a further postponement beyond 5 June. It believes questions of prestige and face will induce them to compromise since they are not entering the conference from a position of strength.

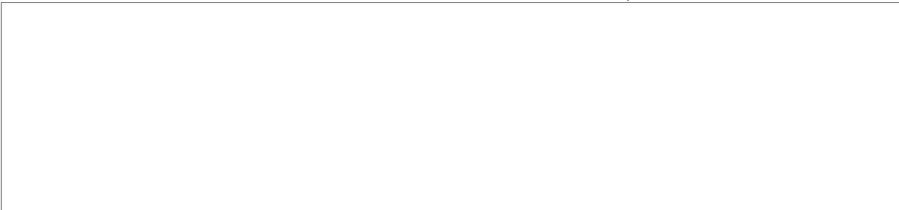
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EUROPE

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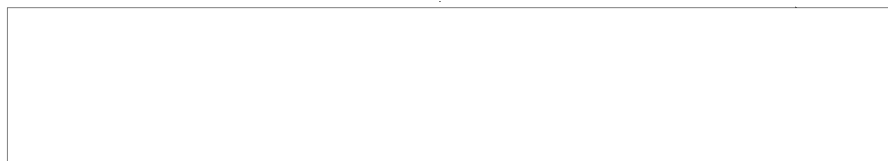


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VIETNAM

The Communists will probably consider yesterday's Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearings as evidence that the US administration is under strong pressure to end the war, and that this pressure will grow and work to their advantage as time passes. If this assessment of their reaction is correct, Hanoi is likely to continue stalling in Paris in belief that our side eventually will make new proposals, both for the format of private talks and for settlement of the main issues of the war.

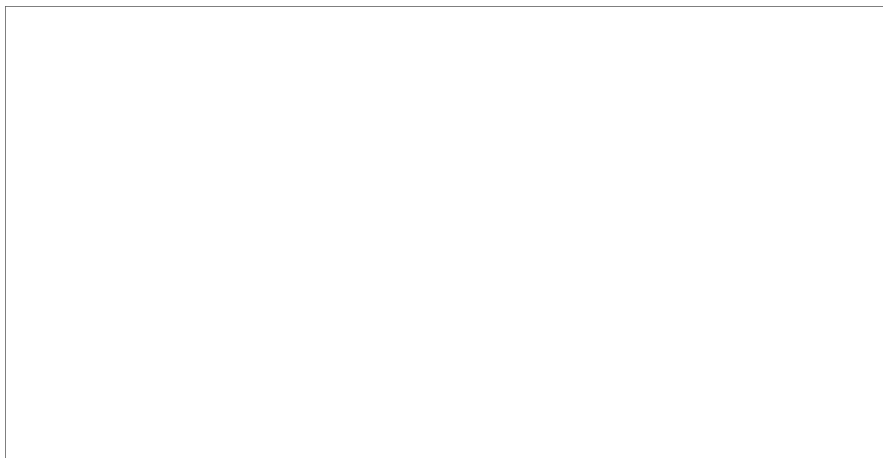
South Vietnam's leaders will also take particular note of warnings by some Committee members that they will push the US administration harder unless significant progress is evident in the Paris talks within a few months. Saigon views with deep concern any indication that the US administration will come under strong pressures to force the South to make substantial concessions to the Liberation Front.



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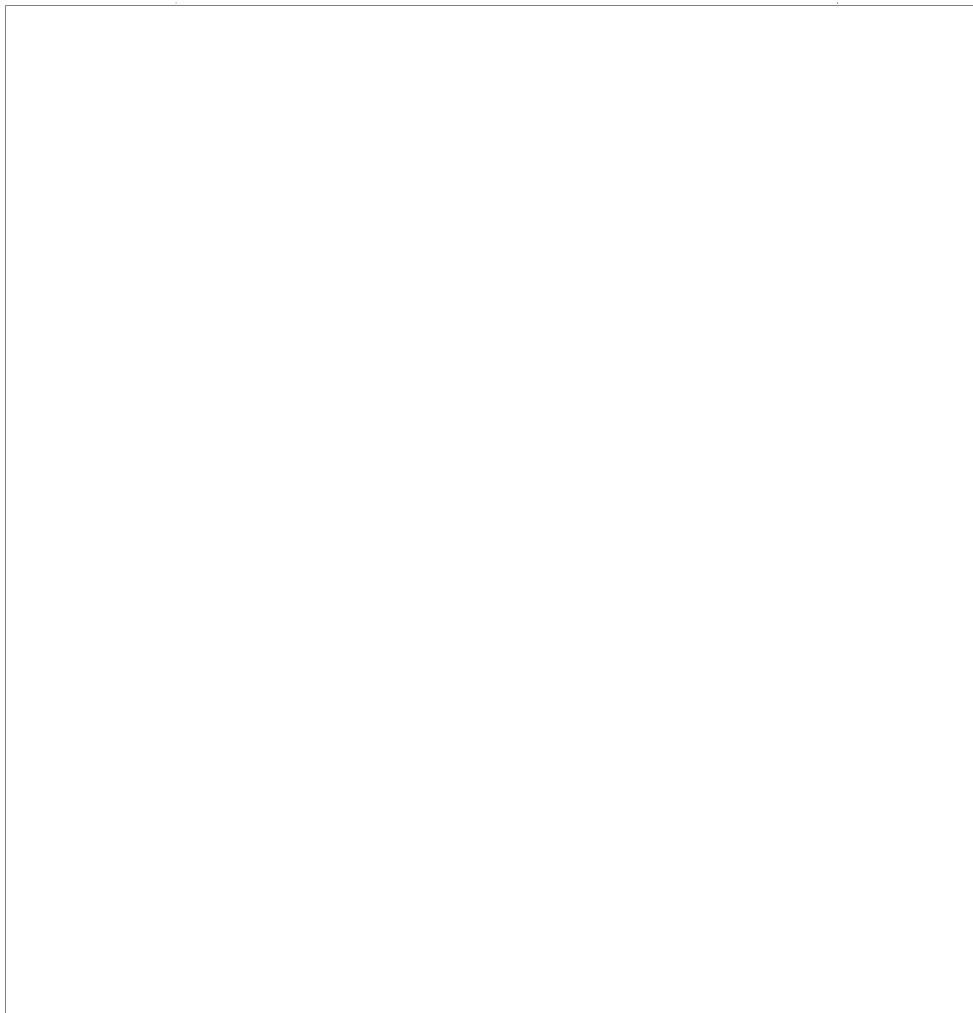
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II. OTHER IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS

PAKISTAN

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SOVIET UNION - COMMUNIST CHINA

The Soviet press continues to exploit the border issue. Today's Pravda carries a report of Chinese shelling of the disputed island. No date is given, however, and neither side

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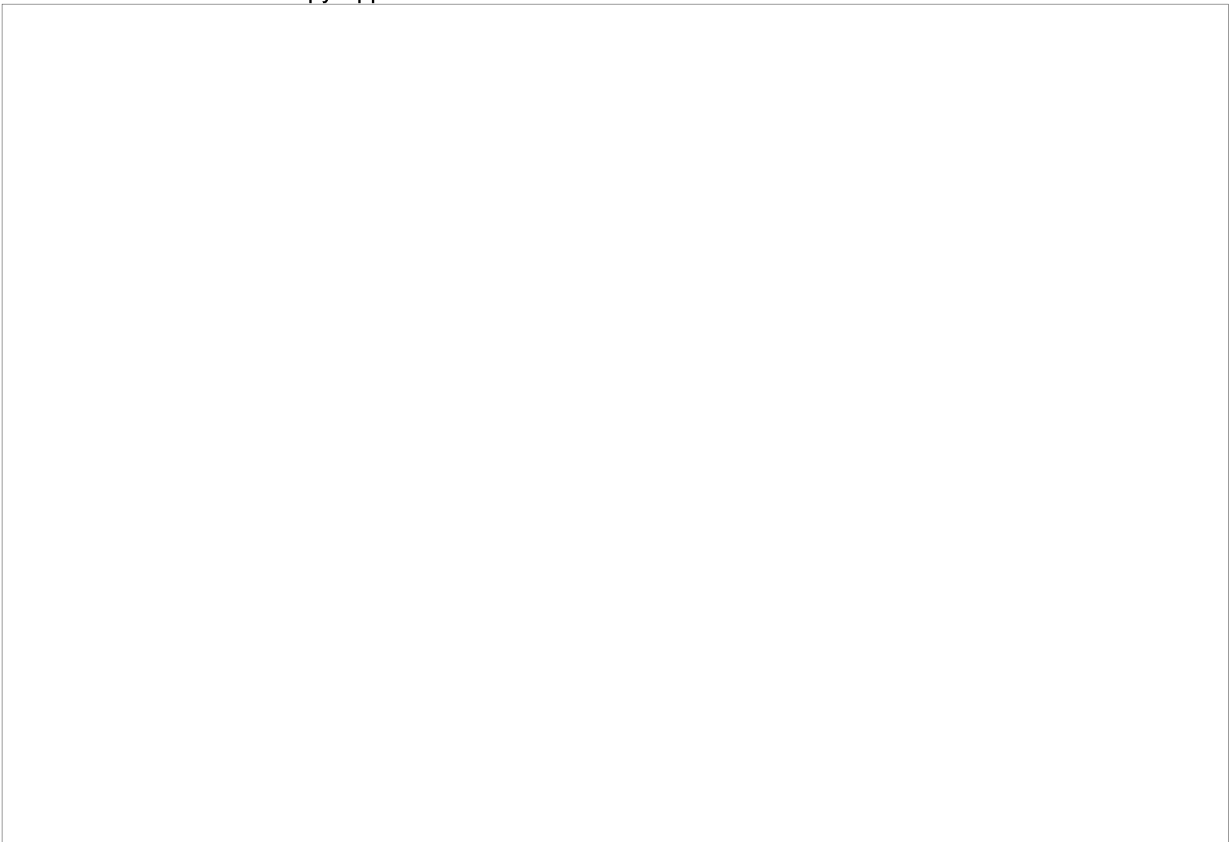
has referred to troop clashes since 15 March. The wording of the Pravda article suggests that neither Chinese nor Soviet forces have established fixed positions on the island, but Soviet patrols visit it and both sides are digging in on their respective sides of the river.

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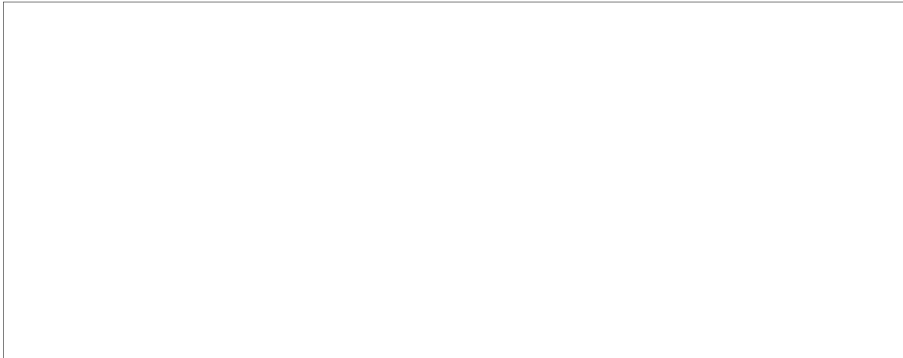


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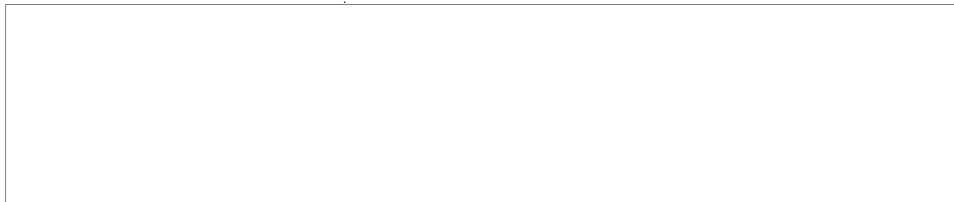
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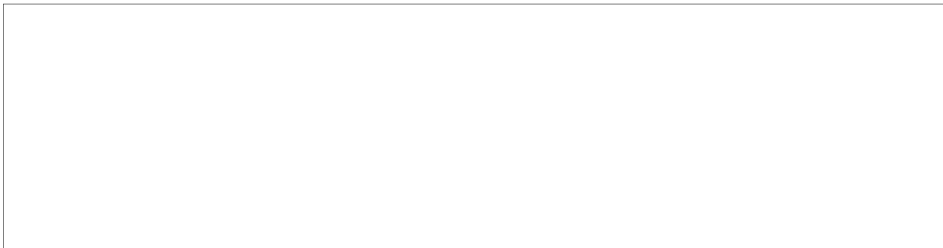
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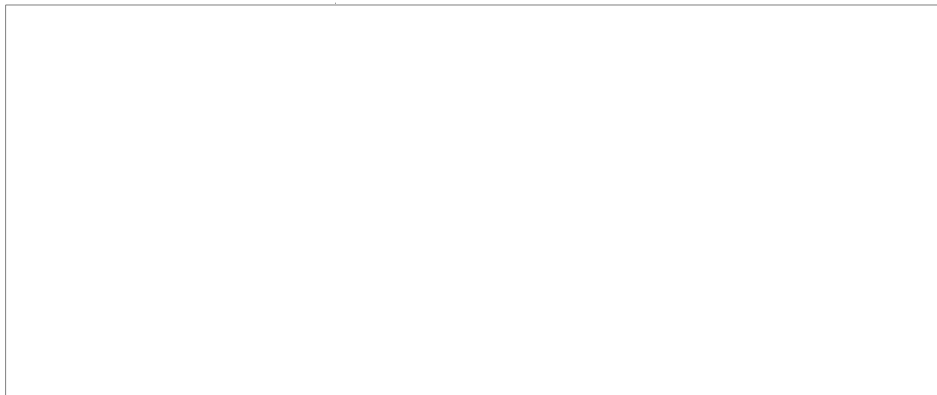
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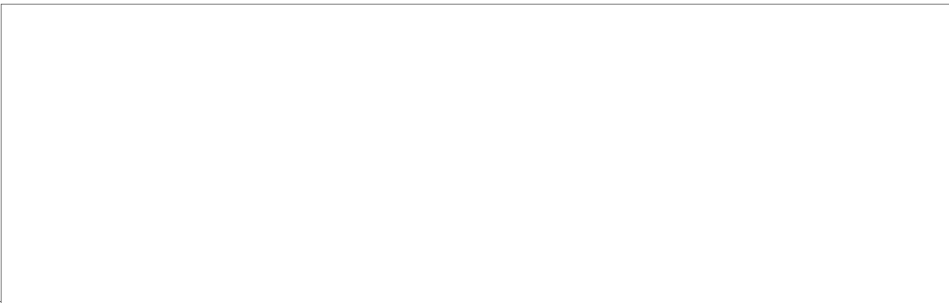
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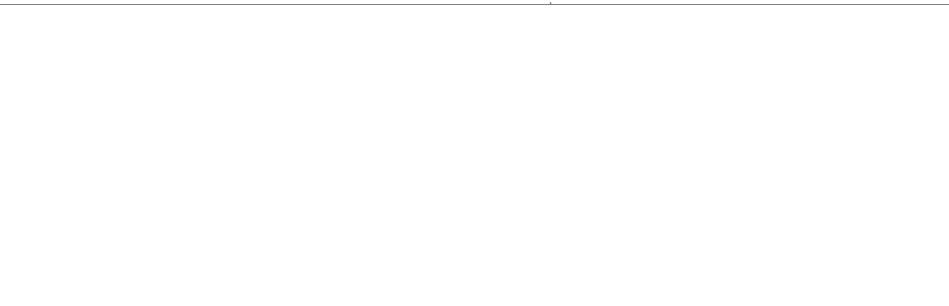
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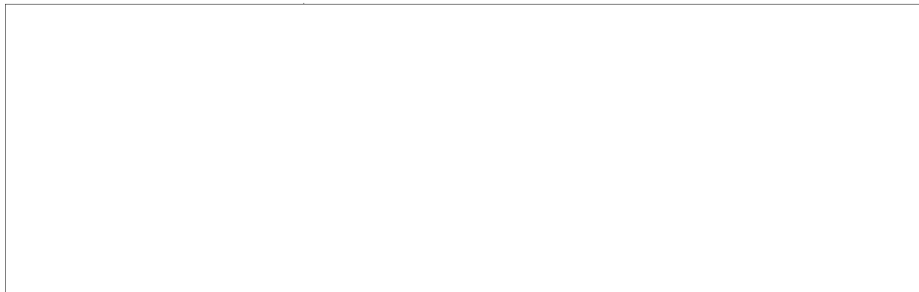
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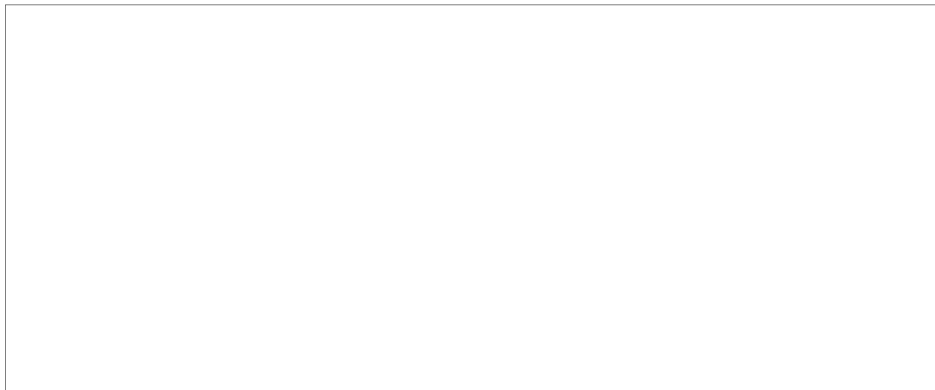
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